

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-18

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

S E C R E T STATE 249205

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJ: THAILAND-BURMA NARCOTICS COOPERATION

REFS: (A) RANGOON 2824 (B) BANGKOK 10310 (C) STATE 232571

(D) BANGKOK 19308

1. FOR RANGOON: IN FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSIONS WITH GUB ON NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT OFFER, YOU SHOULD DEVELOP THEME THAT EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF AIRCRAFT WILL PROBABLY HAVE CONSEQUENCES ON THAI SIDE OF BORDER THAT WILL REQUIRE ACTION BY THAI AUTHORITIES IF RESULTS ARE TO BE SIGNIFICANT AND LASTING. THIS IMPLIES A NEED FOR INCREASED COOPERATION WITH RTG IN GOLDEN TRIANGLE NARCOTICS SUPPRESSION OPERATIONS. RESULTS ACHIEVABLE BY INTENSIFIED GUB ATTACKS ON TRAFFICKERS AND REFINERS IN SHAN STATE WILL BE DIMINISHED IF BURMESE OPERATIONS ARE NOT COMPLEMENTED WITH COORDI-

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NATED SUPPORTING AND BACK-UP ACTION BY THE THAI. LAST

SUMMER'S OPERATION LEADING TO THE CAPTURE OF LO HSING-HAN ILLUSTRATES VALUE OF COORDINATED ACTION.

2. WHILE WE ARE NOT ATTACHING CONDITIONS REGARDING GUB/RTG COOPERATION TO OUR EQUIPMENT OFFER, WE TRUST BURMESE WILL SEE THE POINT AND DO ALL POSSIBLE TO IMPROVE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE THAI. YOU MAY INFORM THE GUB THAT WE ARE MAKING A SIMILAR ARGUMENT TO THE RTG IN CONNECTION WITH ADDITIONAL HELICOPTERS WE ARE PLANNING TO GIVE THEM IN

INTERDICTION OPERATIONS IN THE BORDER AREA. WE ARE AWARE OF INHIBITIONS THE GUB MAY FEEL, GIVEN THE RECORD OF MUTUAL SUSPICION AND THE BACKGROUND OF THAI SYMPATHY FOR SOME OF BURMA'S DISSIDENT GROUPS. HOWEVER, WE ARE HOPEFUL--AND YOU MAY SO INFORM THE BURMESE--THAT THE NEW POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN THAILAND WILL OPEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATER COOPERATION. YOU MAY ALSO INFORM GUB THAT WE ARE EMPHATICALLY IMPRESSING UPON THE RTG THE BASIC U.S. POSITION SET FORTH PARA 4 BELOW.

3. FOR BANGKOK: WHEN YOU INFORM THE RTG OF BURMESE NARCOTICS EQUIPMENT PROPOSAL AND IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS ON ADDITIONAL ANTI-NARCOTICS HELICOPTERS WE ARE PLANNING FOR THAILAND, YOU SHOULD PUSH THE BURMA-THAILAND NARCOTICS COOPERATION THEME, URGING THE RTG TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN CALLING FOR CLOSER COORDINATION OF GOLDEN TRIANGLE OPERATIONS. AS SUPPRESSIVE EFFORTS INTENSIFY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER SUCH COORDINATION WILL BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT. WE HOPE THAT RECOGNITION OF THIS FACT WILL EVENTUALLY RESULT IN INSTITUTIONALIZING OF COOPERATIVE MEASURES AFTER THE FASHION DEVELOPING BETWEEN THAILAND AND LAOS (REF C, PARA 4 E).

4. YOU SHOULD ALSO NOTE THAT OUR OFFER TO THE GUB REFLECTS A FIRM U.S. POLICY COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT BURMESE CAMPAIGNS AGAINST GOLDEN TRIANGLE RAFFICKING GROUPS. IT ALSO REFLECTS OUR CONVICTION THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE BUFFER AGAINST DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT AREA INEVITABLE TO THAILAND, WHETHER NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING OR BCP INSURGENCY, IS EFFECTIVE GUB PRESENCE AND CONTROL. WE ARE THEREFORE
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STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ANY OUTSIDE INFLUENCES THAT TEND TO SUPPORT OR GIVE ENCOURAGEMENT TO DISSIDENT GROUPS IN THE AREA, INCLUDING BCP, KKY, CIF, KIA AND IBMND. RUSH

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